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Green Airport employees are screened

Federal and state agencies, working with the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force, checked 4,000 workers who have access to secure areas of the airport

A team of federal and state law enforcement agencies screened more than 4,000 employees at T.F. Green Airport over the last several months. Employees who have access to secure areas of the airport were checked for prior felony arrests, false statements on applications, fictitious social security numbers, and other indications of potential security risks or fraud. Eight employees were found to have immigration violations.

United States Attorney Margaret Curran announced the results of the screening project, which was coordinated by the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force. She commended the work of the agencies involved in the screening effort: the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General; the Transportation Security Administration; the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General; the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Rhode Island State Police; and the Rhode Island Airport Corporation Police and Public Safety Departments.

"It's important to note that, out of more than 4,000 airport employees with access to the tarmac and other secure areas of the airport, only eight were found to have questionable backgrounds," U.S. Attorney Curran said. "Those results demonstrate that, overall, the people

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responsible for the hiring and oversight of staff and contractors at Green Airport have been doing a pretty good job; they have been generally quite successful in screening out individuals whose backgrounds suggest any potential threat to the safety and security of travelers who use Green Airport."

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested six of the eight employees found to have immigration violation. The other two have not been located but their airport identification cards have been confiscated and deactivated.

"Over the course of six months, this multi-agency team worked together on this vetting process, which is an important component of the counter-terrorism efforts of the Anti-Terrorism Task Force and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force," U.S. Attorney Curran said.

Procedures have also been implemented to check new employees and contractors who apply for secure airport access cards and to periodically rescreen those who already have access cards.

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